

# Assemblyman **PAUL KORETZ**

**Forty-second Assembly District**

*proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks*



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**Contact: Teresa Stark  
(916) 319-2042  
Cell (916) 715-2203**

## **Koretz to Introduce Legislation to Prohibit Smoking on Beaches** *Bill Will Eliminate Confusion Resulting From Various City Ordinances*

(Sacramento) – Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) announced today that he will introduce legislation immediately to prohibit smoking on California's public coastal beaches.

If passed, this bill will create an environment free of second-hand smoke for the state's beach-goers and address a serious environmental problem.

"Cigarette butts are the most common form of litter on beaches. Smokers discard billions of cigarette butts yearly in this country," said Assemblyman Koretz. "During annual coastal clean ups, cigarette butts are always the number one item collected."

In addition, this legislation will reduce the harmful presence of cigarette butts as marine debris in the ocean. The toxic chemicals that are released from discarded cigarette butts present a significant bio-hazard, particularly in the food chain when consumed by fish.

Several cities, including Santa Monica, Malibu and Los Angeles, have recently passed ordinances to restrict smoking on the beaches in their jurisdictions.

"These cities should be applauded for their efforts to ensure that families who are visiting our beautiful beaches do not have to be subjected to someone else's nasty, dangerous second-hand smoke," said Koretz. "But though these local efforts are commendable, such ordinances will create a confusing hodgepodge of smoking restrictions."

"This is an issue very appropriate for state regulation. It will make compliance easier for visitors to our beaches, and will eliminate confusion for law enforcement," he concluded.

The bill will deem smoking on a coastal beach an infraction punishable by a \$250 civil fine.

The new legislation will be inserted into AB 1583, a Koretz bill currently inactive on the Senate Floor. Once amended it will be referred to a policy committee in the Senate for consideration.

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